

October 25, 2026

Chosen and Attentive

from our series, *Powerful: Stories from 1 & 2 Samuel*

Warmup: *Is there a story behind your name? Why were you given the name you have?*

REMINDER The stories in the Bible are *our* family stories. They shape us and they show us truths about God and about humans. Meander through this biblical story and see what the Holy Spirit shows you!

READ 1 Samuel 16:1-13

REFLECT

- How do you imagine Samuel the prophet looks? 😊
- Let's talk about fear:
 - Did Samuel have a legitimate reason to be afraid?
 - The story doesn't say David was afraid, but could he have been?
 - Was there a time in your life when you were afraid and God reassured you?
- Let's talk about being treated as insignificant:
 - David was called the *qatan*, which means *little* and *insignificant*. Why was David treated this way? And here's a deep question – why does anyone treat another as insignificant?
 - David's name means *beloved*, and in verse 13 he is finally called by his name. Why do you think David was beloved to God?
 - If you are able, name a time that you've been treated as insignificant, and also reflect on the truth that you are God's beloved.
[Leader note: as people share, remind everyone that in vulnerable moments like these it is important for us to listen as compassionate friends and not problem-solvers.]
- Let's talk about our hearts:
 - David's heart was attentive to God. How did he do it? As in when he faced Goliath, when Saul has hunting to kill him, etc. etc. etc.
 - To have an attentive heart, Neil said we need to do three things: take shame seriously, take sin seriously, and take God seriously. Decide as a group which one of these to talk about (you can also talk about the other two if there is time).
 - What are the barriers to taking shame/sin/God seriously?
 - What happens when you do take shame/sin/God seriously?

"To transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ."

- Pause and pray. The Holy Spirit is God's empowering presence, so ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what your next step is, then share with the group.
- Here's an astounding truth: Jesus had the perfectly attentive heart, and when we place our faith in Him, our lives become intimately connected with Christ (Galatians 2:20). This means that even when our hearts are distracted or deceived, we are still connected to Jesus' attentive heart!

RESPOND

- Pray for each other's next steps, and share any other prayer requests, and then pray for each other.

"To transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ."